

College Admissions Standards: A Critical P-16 Link



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College Admissions Standards: A Critical P-16 Link

1. Who sets college admissions standards?
2. Current admissions standards.
 - a. Freshmen minimum standards.
 - b. Alternative standards.
 - c. Institution admissions standards.
3. Freshmen minimums compared to institutional average standards.
4. College admissions standards: a critical P-16 link.
5. 2004 HECB Master Plan review of college admissions.

1. Who sets college admissions standards?

- ◆ HECB sets minimum admissions standards for four-year public institutions.
- ◆ Four-year public institutions can set entrance requirements for their respective institutions that meet or exceed the HECB minimum admissions standards.
- ◆ State law requires HECB to develop admissions standards that are consistent with the essential learning requirements and Certificate of Mastery.

2. Current admissions standards

a. Freshmen minimum standards

- ◆ Freshmen admissions standards are based on a “probability of success” model.
- ◆ Probability of success is measured by:
 - completion of high school college prep core courses;
 - competitive high school grades (GPA) and test scores (on SAT and ACT);
 - GPA and test scores are combined in a 3 to 1 ratio to produce an admissions index.

Current admissions standards
Freshmen minimum standards

◆ Required high school core courses:

- | | |
|--|---------|
| • English | 4 years |
| • Mathematics (algebra and above) | 3 years |
| • Social Studies | 3 years |
| • Science (includes one lab science) | 2 years |
| • Foreign language | 2 years |
| • Fine, visual, performing arts or
one elective from core courses | 1 year |

Current admissions standards
Freshmen minimum standards

◆ Admissions Index:

- Good predictors of student success in the first year of college are the GPA and the SAT or ACT test scores.
- The GPA and test scores are combined to calculate the Admissions Index which is the best predictor of student success.
- GPA is weighted three times more heavily than the test scores.

3 x GPA plus 1 x SAT or ACT scores = Admissions Index

Current admissions standards
Freshmen minimum standards

- ◆ The minimum Admissions Index is higher for the research universities.
 - At the UW and WSU, students with a minimum Admissions Index of 28 have a *high probability* (80%) of earning a 2.0 GPA in the first year of college.
 - AT WWU, CWU, EWU, and TESC, students with a minimum Admissions Index of 13 have a *reasonable probability* (65%) of earning a 2.0 GPA in the first year of college.

Current admissions standards

b. Alternative standards

- ◆ Up to 15% of enrolled freshmen may be admitted using an alternative standard. They do not need to meet the minimum standards.
- ◆ Admissions standards for freshmen 25 years of age or older are set by each institution based on age and personal experience.
- ◆ Transfer student admissions are set by each institution based on statewide transfer agreements and articulation agreements.

Current admissions standards

c. Institution admissions standards

- ◆ Institutions may, and do, apply their own admissions standards above the minimum.
- ◆ Examples of other standards:
 - Higher admissions index
 - More core courses
 - Higher GPA
 - Essays
 - Letters of reference

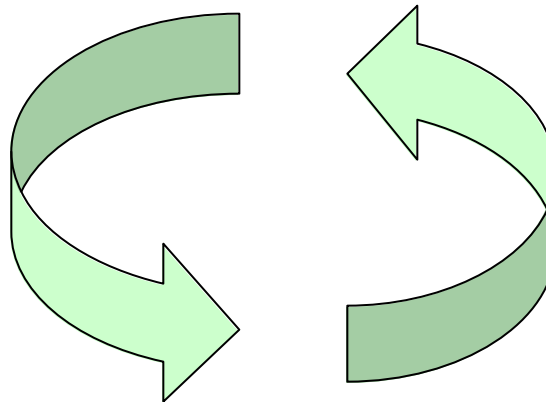
3. Freshmen minimums compared to institutional average standards

	<u>HECB Minimum Admissions Index</u>	<u>Institutional Average Admissions Index</u>
UW	28	78
WSU	28	59
WWU	13	65
CWU	13	48
EWU	13	52
TESC	13	50

4. College admissions standards: a critical P-16 link

**K-12 and higher education systems
influence each other**

College
Admission
Policies



K-12
Curriculum and
Assessment Policies

*College admissions standards:
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Why should we care about a P-16 linkage?

- ◆ Nationally, 90% of high school freshmen think they will attend college, yet only 44% will take a college prep curriculum.
- ◆ Most high school students go to college. In Washington, 63% of all graduating seniors will go directly to college.
- ◆ By clearly defining standards and assessments across sectors, more students will achieve higher education standards.
- ◆ Coordination of admission policies and high school curricula will simplify the qualification, application, and admission process for students and institutions.
- ◆ Common standards will reduce assessments and reduce remediation.

5. 2004 HECB Master Plan review of college admissions

◆ Four key questions:

- What purpose do public baccalaureate admission standards serve?
- How do K-12 education reform efforts impact college admissions?
- How can competencies and classroom-based assessments be connected between the K-12 and higher education systems?
- How does accelerated college course work in high school affect the admissions process?